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KNUCKLES™
THE ECHIDNA
PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN
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KNUCKLES™

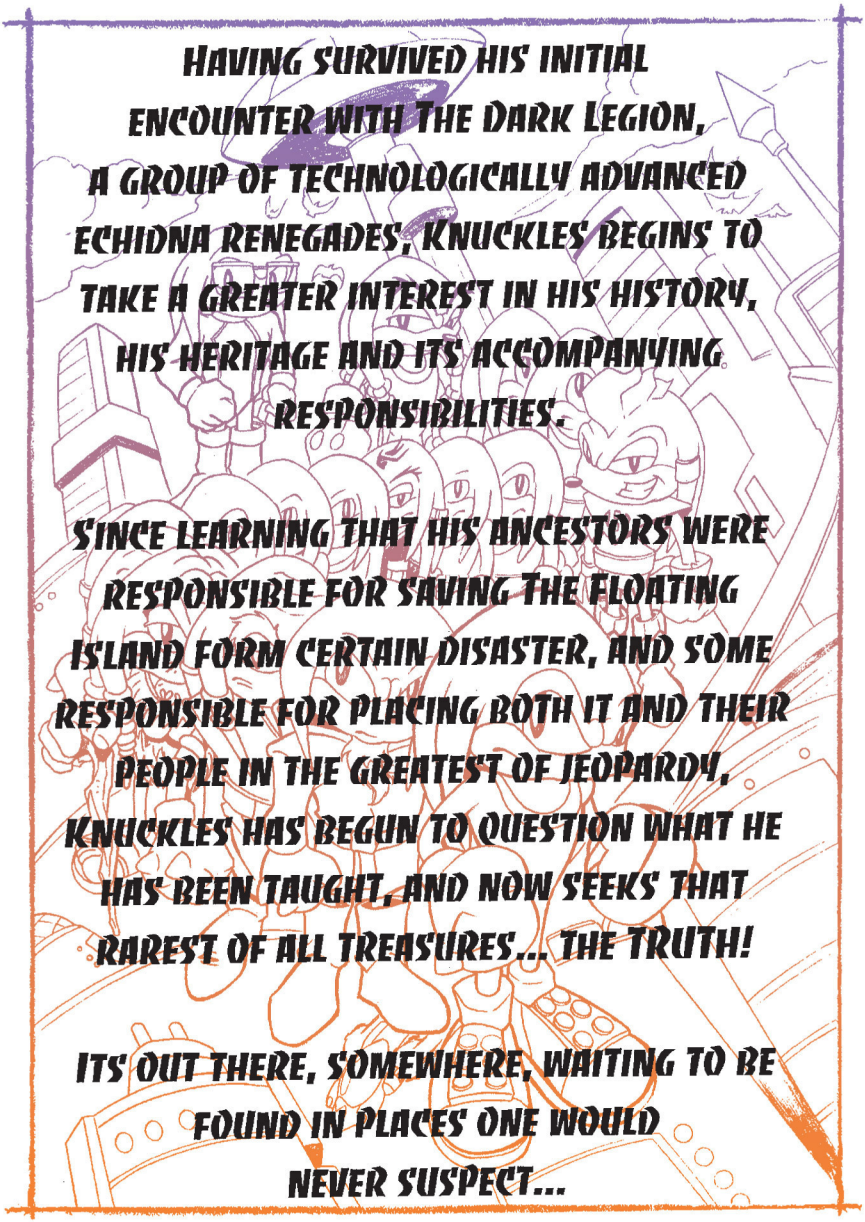
THE ECHIDNA

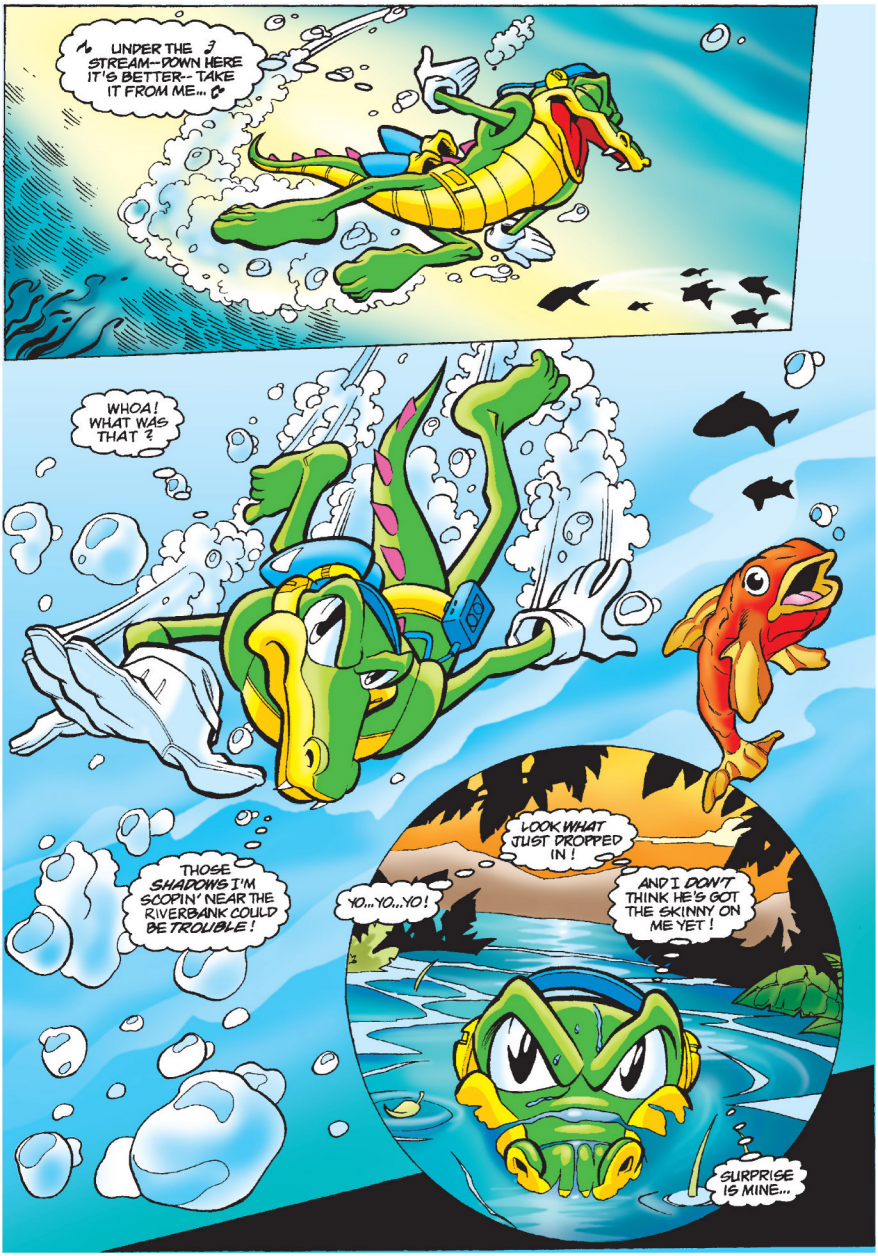
BOOK FOUR

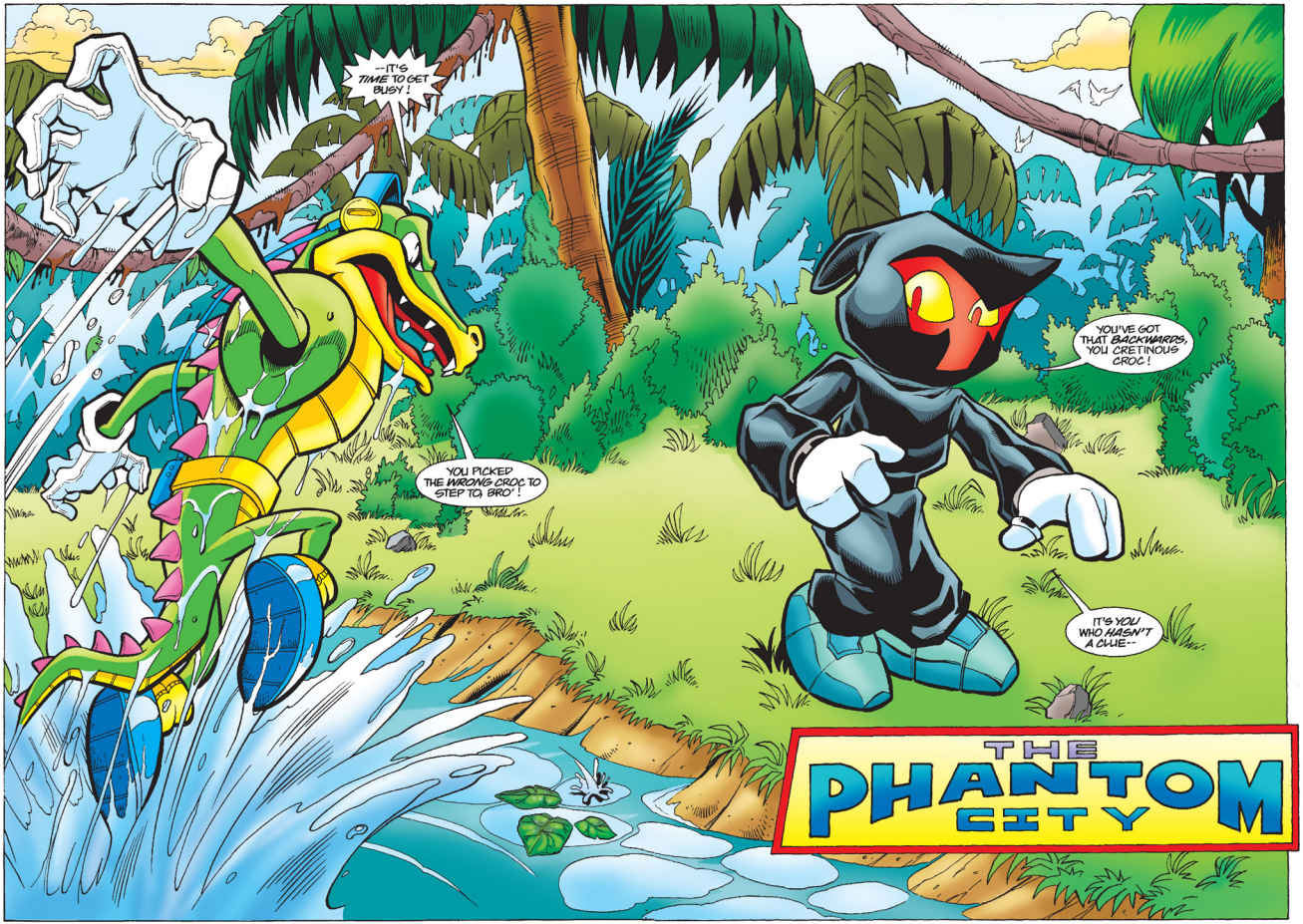
LOST PARADISE

PART ONE OF THREE

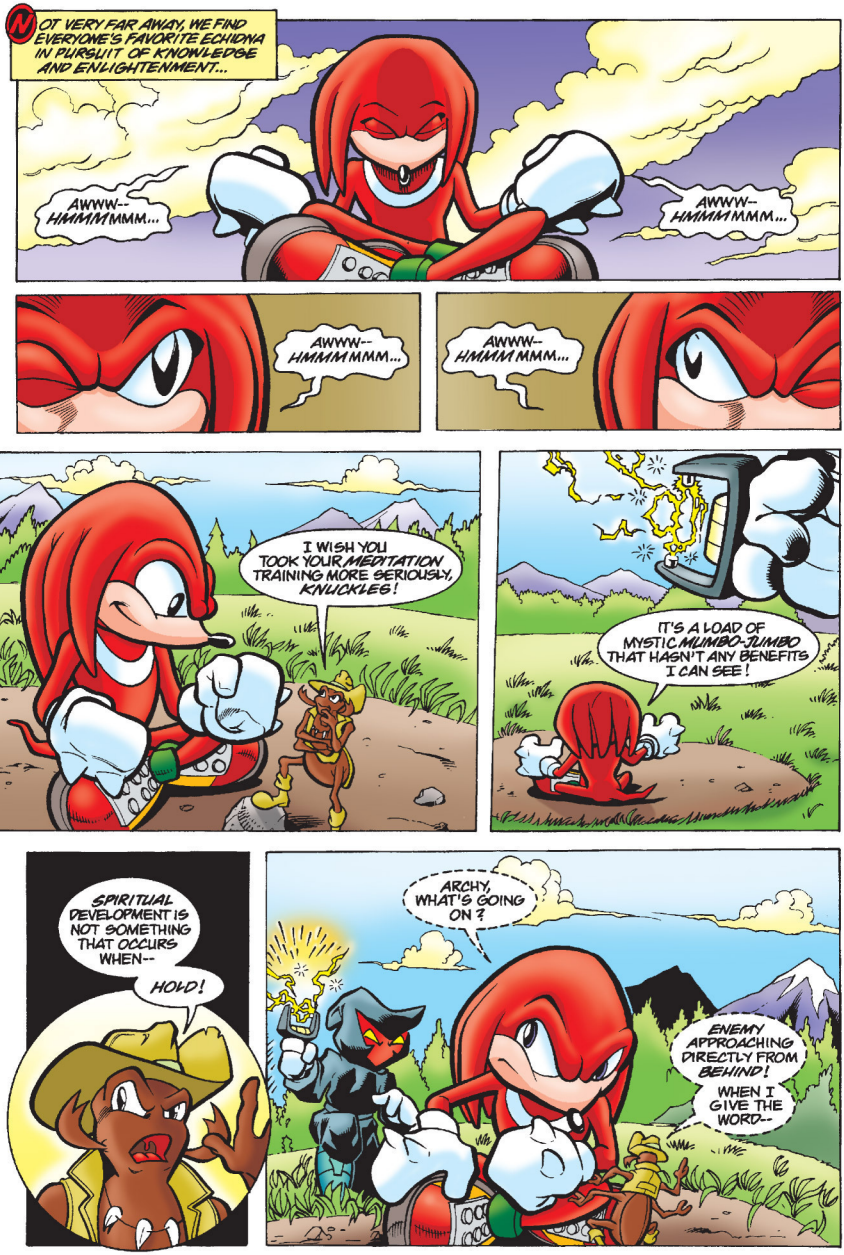
KEN PENDERS	MANNY GALAN	ANDREW PEPOY	BARRY GROSSMAN	VICKIE WILLIAMS	J. FREDDY GABRIE	VICTOR GORELICK	RICHARD GOLDWATER
Writer	*Penciler*	*Inker*	*Colorist*	*Letterer*	*Editor*	*Managing Editor*	*Editor-In-Chief*

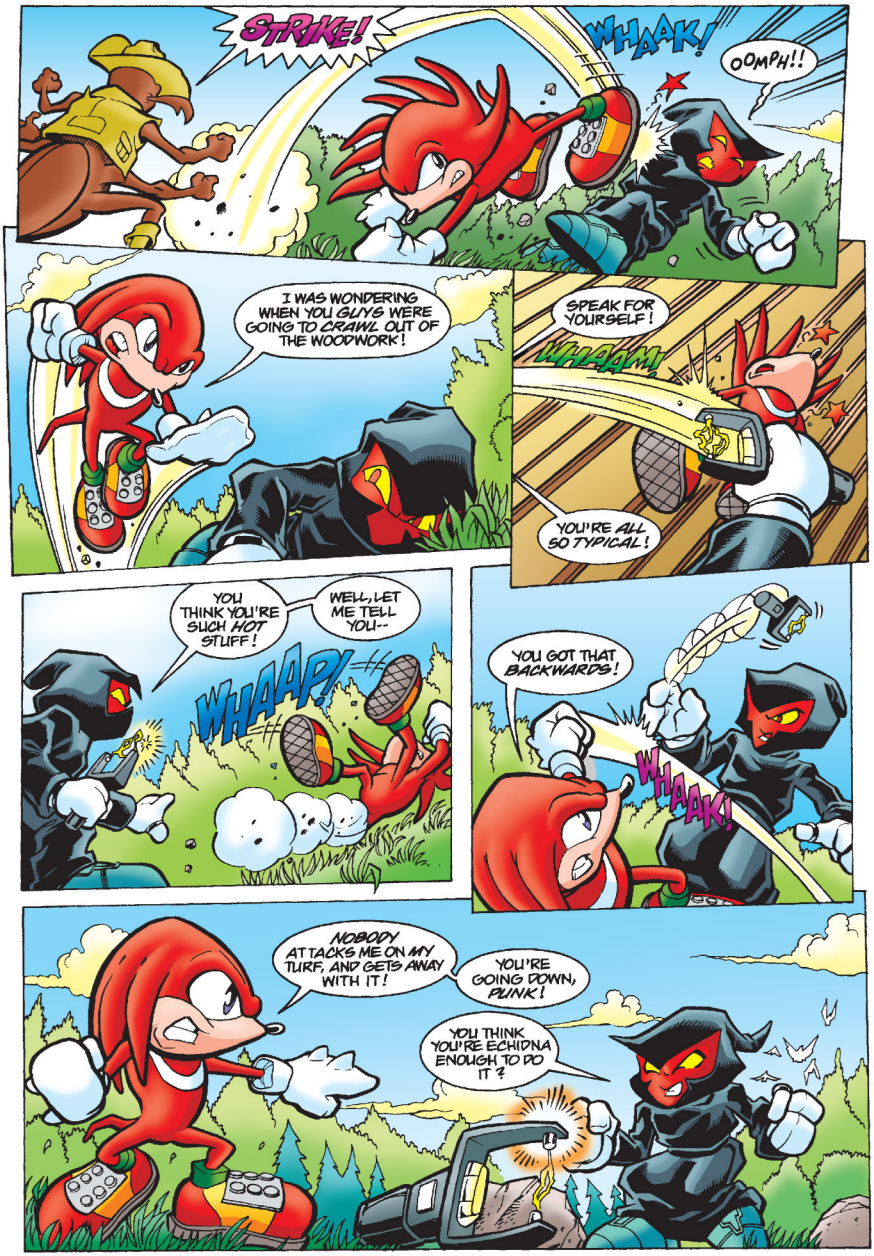

Having survived his initial encounter with The Dark Legion, a group of technologically advanced echidna renegades, Knuckles begins to take a greater interest in his history, his heritage and its accompanying responsibilities.
Since learning that his ancestors were responsible for saving The Floating Island form certain disaster, and some responsible for placing both it and their people in the greatest of jeopardy, Knuckles has begun to question what he has been taught, and now seeks that rarest of all treasures... the TRUTH!
Its out there, somewhere, waiting to be found in places one would never suspect...

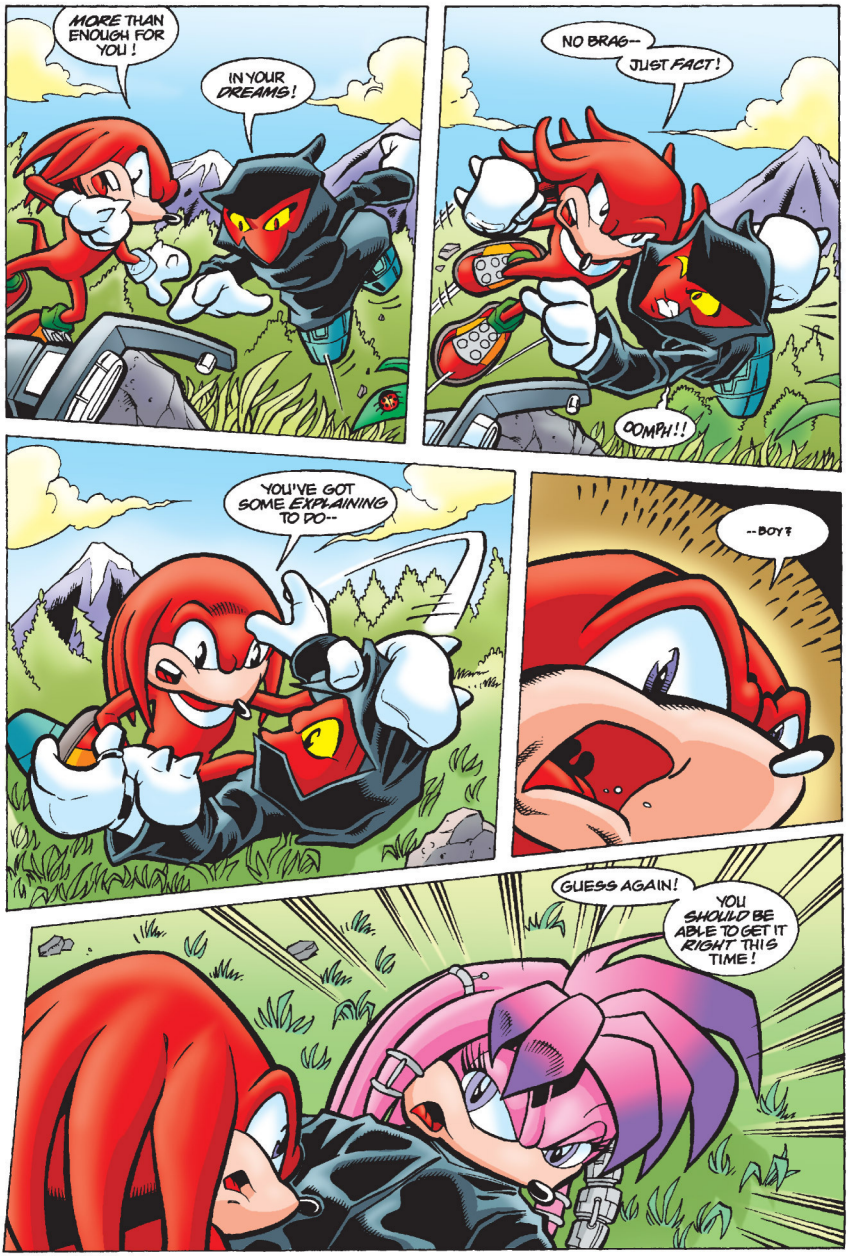

UNDER THE STREAM--DOWN HERE IT'S BETTER-- TAKE IT FROM ME...
WHOA! WHAT WAS THAT ?
THOSE SHADOWS I'M SCOPIN' NEAR THE RIVERBANK COULD BE TROUBLE !
LOOK WHAT JUST DROPPED IN !
YO...YO...YO!
AND I DON'T THINK HE'S GOT THE SKINNY ON ME YET !
SURPRISE IS MINE...


--IT'S TIME TO GET BUSY!
YOU PICKED THE WRONG CROC TO STEP TO, BRO'!
YOU'VE GOT THAT BACKWARDS, YOU CRETINOUS CROC!
IT'S YOU WHO HASN'T A CLUE--
THE PHANTOM CITY

-- OF WHOM YOU'RE DEALING WITH!
NICE MOVE!
WHOOOSH!
BUT I'M JUST GETTIN' MY GROOVE ON!
WRONG!
K-THUNK!
WHIIIIP!
I'M THROUGH WITH THE SQUARE DANCING!
I'VE GOT OTHER ECHIDNA TO FRY!
NEXT TIME, LEAD WITH YOUR LEFT--
CHUMP!


NOT VERY FAR AWAY, WE FIND EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA IN PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT...
AWWW-- HMMMMMMM...
AWWW-- HMMMMMMM...
AWWW-- HMMMMMMM...
AWWW-- HMMMMMMM...
I WISH YOU TOOK YOUR MEDITATION TRAINING MORE SERIOUSLY, KNUCKLES!
IT'S A LOAD OF MYSTIC MUMBO-JUMBO THAT HASN'T ANY BENEFITS I CAN SEE!
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT OCCURS WHEN--
HOLD!
ARCHY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
ENEMY APPROACHING DIRECTLY FROM BEHIND! WHEN I GIVE THE WORD--

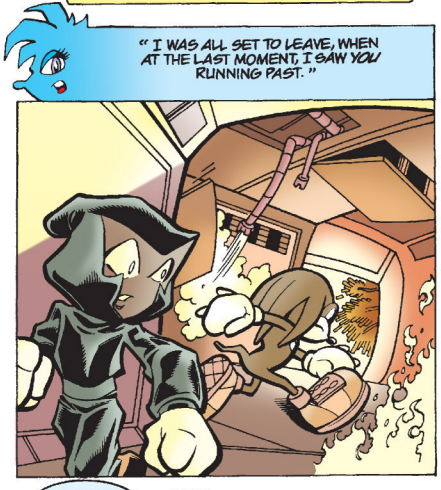

STRIKE!
WHAAK!
OOMPH!!
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU GUYS WERE GOING TO CRAWL OUT OF THE WOODWORK!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!
WHAAAM!
YOU'RE ALL SO TYPICAL!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SUCH HOT STUFF!
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU--
WHAAP!
YOU GOT THAT BACKWARDS!
WHAAK!
NOBODY ATTACKS ME ON MY TURF, AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
YOU'RE GOING DOWN, PUNK!
YOU THINK YOU'RE ECHIDNA ENOUGH TO DO IT?

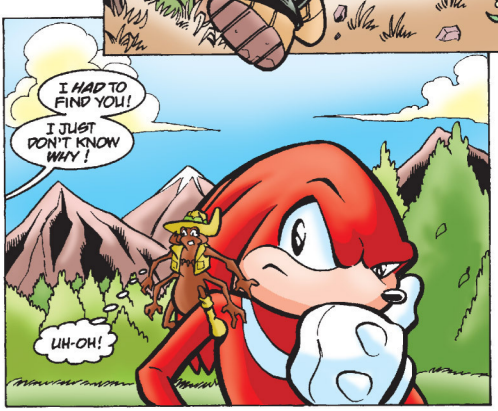

MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU!
IN YOUR DREAMS!
NO BRAG--
JUST FACT!
OOMPH!!
YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO--
--BOY?
GUESS AGAIN!
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!

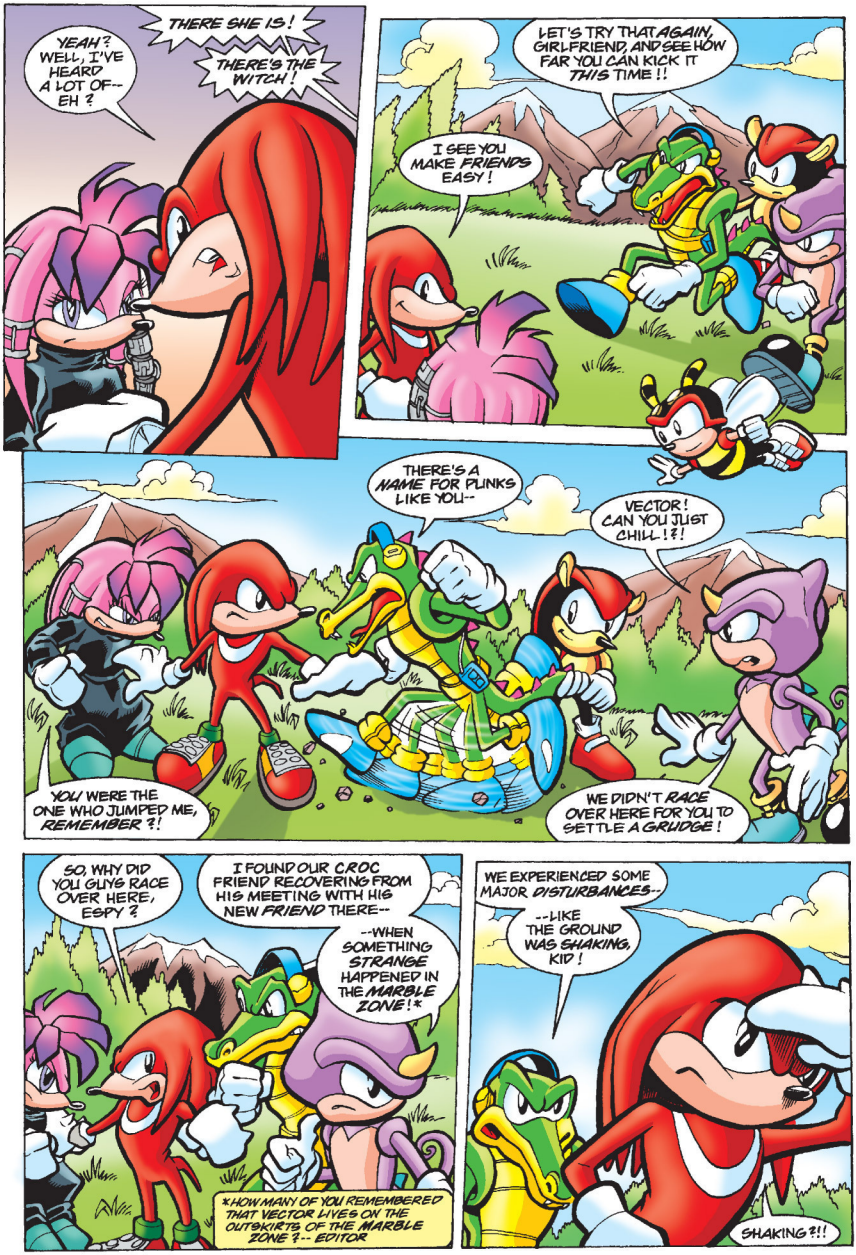
SUCKER!
POW!
YOU MEN ARE ALL ALIKE!
ALWAYS FALLING FOR A PRETTY FACE!
ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT IT WAS A NEAT MOVE ON YOUR PART--
--USING THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!
OOOW!
FA-VOOOSHH
THANKS, ARCHY! I OWE YOU!
NOW THEN, WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS--
WHAT'S WITH THE SNEAK ATTACK--

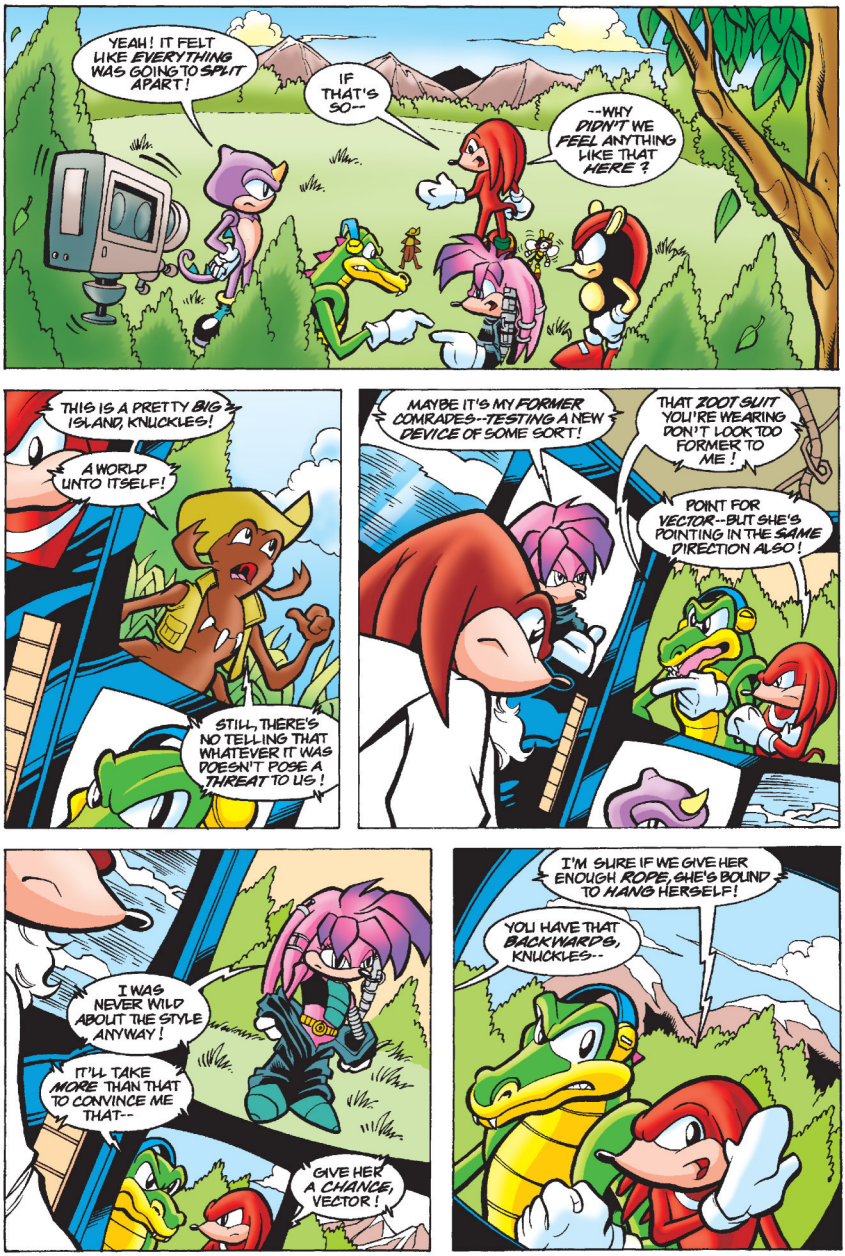
--AND WHERE'S THE REST OF KRAGOK'S THUGS, FEMALE?*
THE NAME IS JULIE-SU, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE!
YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT?

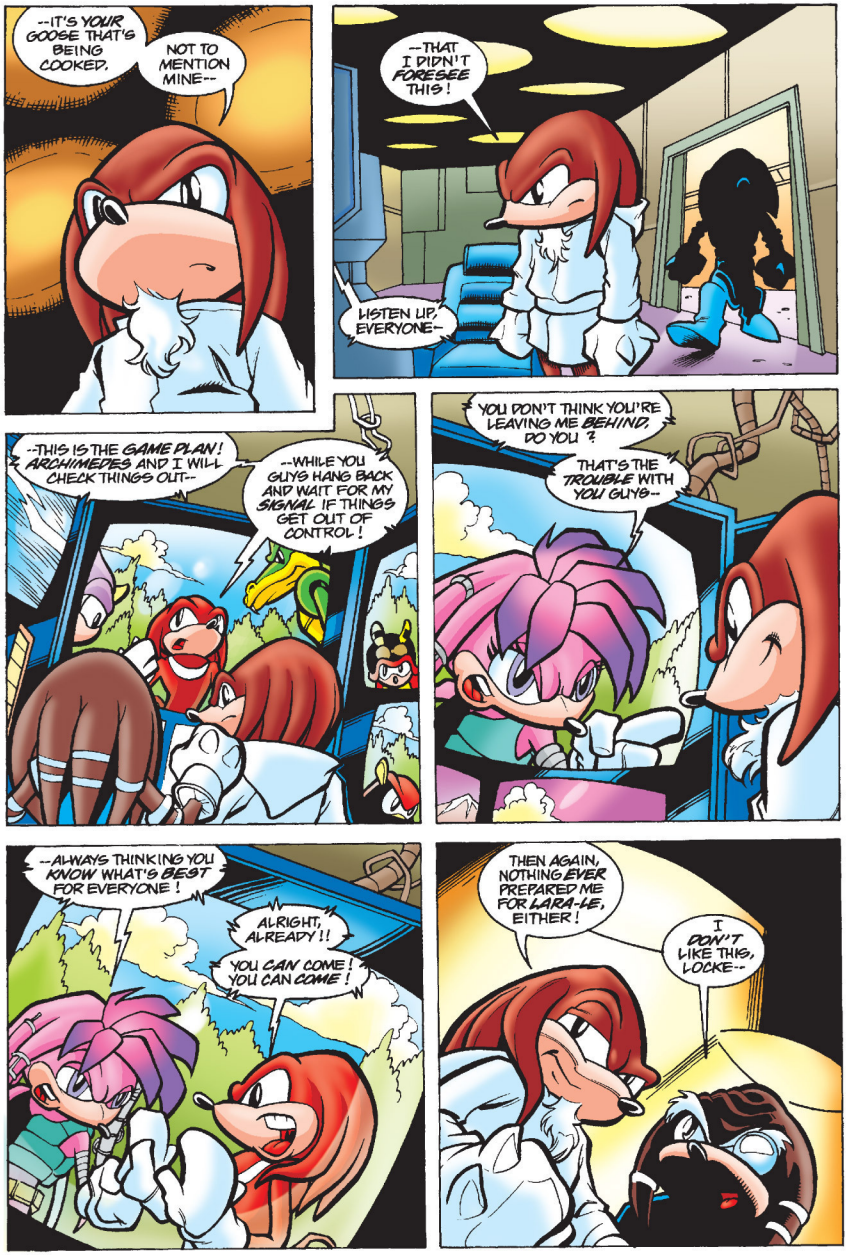
KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL 1 *

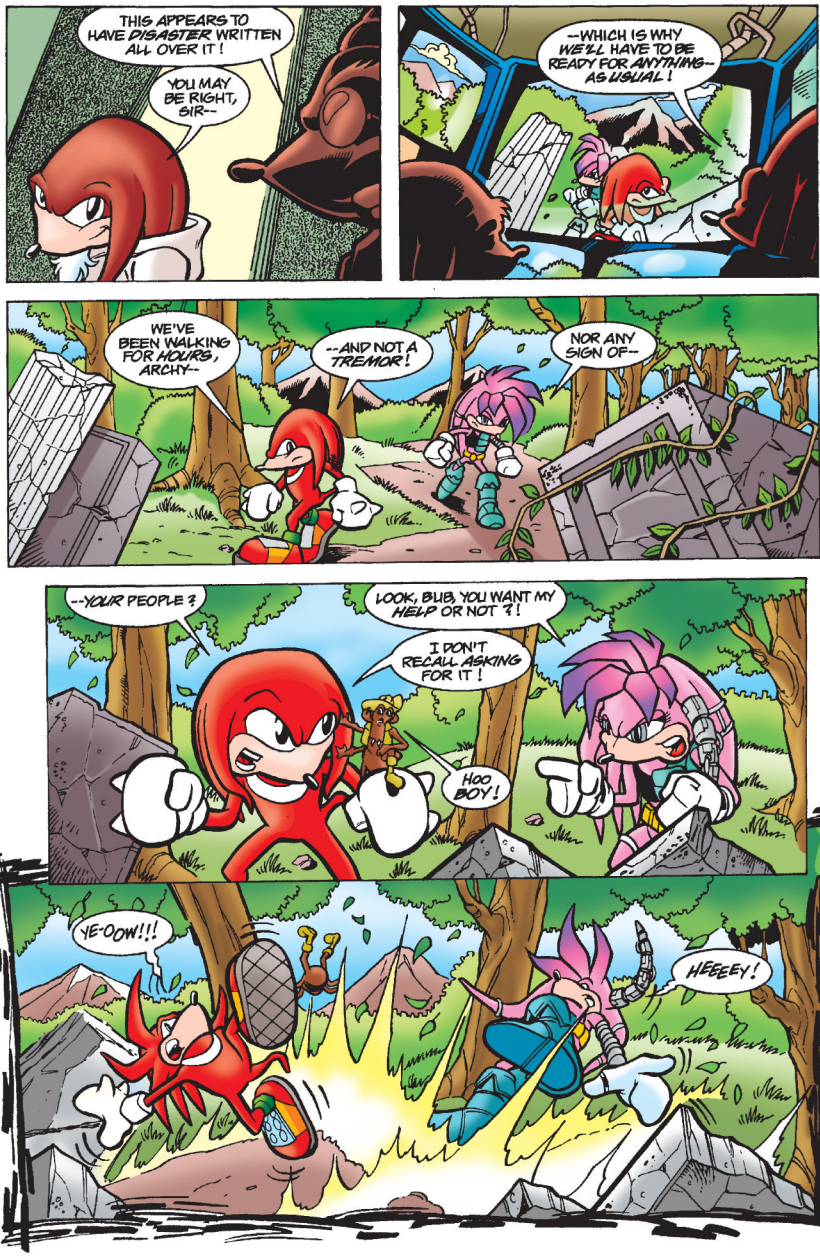


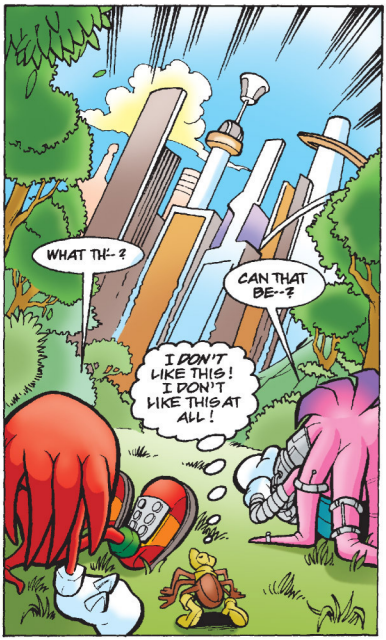


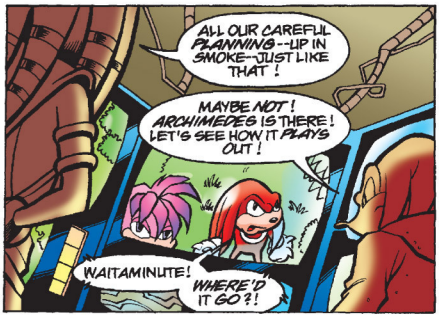

YEAH? WELL, I'VE HEARD A LOT OF-- EH?
THERE SHE IS!
THERE'S THE WITCH!
I SEE YOU MAKE FRIENDS EASY!
LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN, GIRLFRIEND, AND SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN KICK IT THIS TIME!!
THERE'S A NAME FOR PUNKS LIKE YOU--
VECTOR! CAN YOU JUST CHILL!?!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO JUMPED ME, REMEMBER?!
WE DIDN'T RACE OVER HERE FOR YOU TO SETTLE A GRUDGE!
SO, WHY DID YOU GUYS RACE OVER HERE, ESPY?
I FOUND OUR CROC FRIEND RECOVERING FROM HIS MEETING WITH HIS NEW FRIEND THERE--
--WHEN SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED IN THE MARBLE ZONE!*
*HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBERED THAT VECTOR LIVES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE MARBLE ZONE?-- EDITOR
WE EXPERIENCED SOME MAJOR DISTURBANCES--
--LIKE THE GROUND WAS SHAKING, KID!
SHAKING?!!

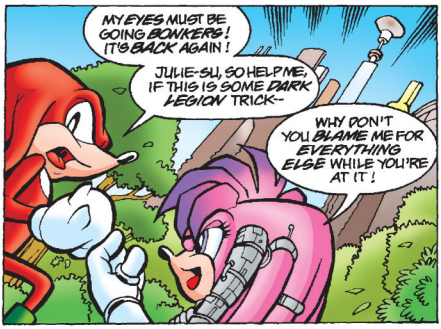

YEAH! IT FELT LIKE EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO SPLIT APART!
IF THAT'S SO--
--WHY DIDN'T WE FEEL ANYTHING LIKE THAT HERE?
THIS IS A PRETTY BIG ISLAND, KNUCKLES!
A WORLD UNTO ITSELF!
STILL, THERE'S NO TELLING THAT WHATEVER IT WAS DOESN'T POSE A THREAT TO US!
MAYBE IT'S MY FORMER COMRADES--TESTING A NEW DEVICE OF SOME SORT!
THAT ZOOT SUIT YOU'RE WEARING DON'T LOOK TOO FORMER TO ME!
POINT FOR VECTOR--BUT SHE'S POINTING IN THE SAME DIRECTION ALSO!
I WAS NEVER WILD ABOUT THE STYLE, ANYWAY!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO CONVINCE ME THAT--
GIVE HER A CHANCE, VECTOR!
I'M SURE IF WE GIVE HER ENOUGH ROPE, SHE'S BOUND TO HANG HERSELF!
YOU HAVE THAT BACKWARDS, KNUCKLES--

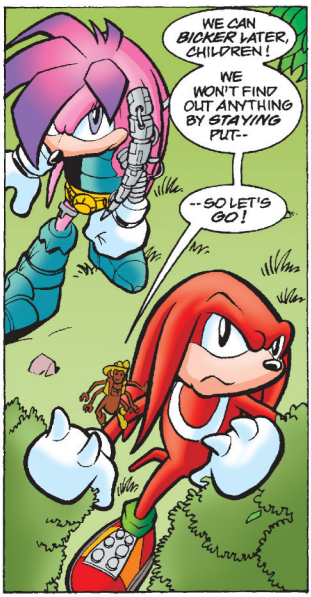

--IT'S YOUR GOOSE THAT'S BEING COOKED.
NOT TO MENTION MINE--
--THAT I DIDN'T FORESEE THIS!
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE--
--THIS IS THE GAME PLAN! ARCHIMEDES AND I WILL CHECK THINGS OUT--
--WHILE YOU GUYS HANG BACK AND WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL IF THINGS GET OUT OF CONTROL!
YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE LEAVING ME BEHIND, DO YOU?
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU GUYS--
--ALWAYS THINKING YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR EVERYONE!
ALRIGHT, ALREADY!!
YOU CAN COME! YOU CAN COME!
THEN AGAIN, NOTHING EVER PREPARED ME FOR LARA-LE, EITHER!
I DON'T LIKE THIS, LOCKE--

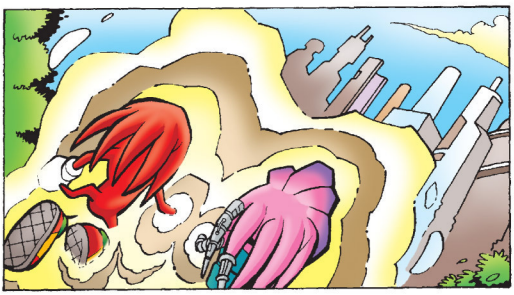

THIS APPEARS TO HAVE DISASTER WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT, SIR--
--WHICH IS WHY WE'LL HAVE TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING-- AS USUAL!
WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS, ARCHY--
--AND NOT A TREMOR!
NOR ANY SIGN OF--
--YOUR PEOPLE?
LOOK, BUB, YOU WANT MY HELP OR NOT?!
I DON'T RECALL ASKING FOR IT!
HOO BOY!
YE-OOW!!!
HEEEEY!

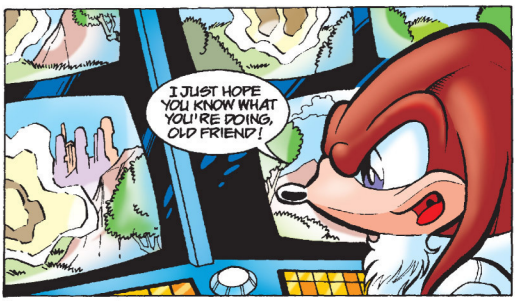

WHAT TH--?
CAN THAT BE--?
I DON'T LIKE THIS! I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL!

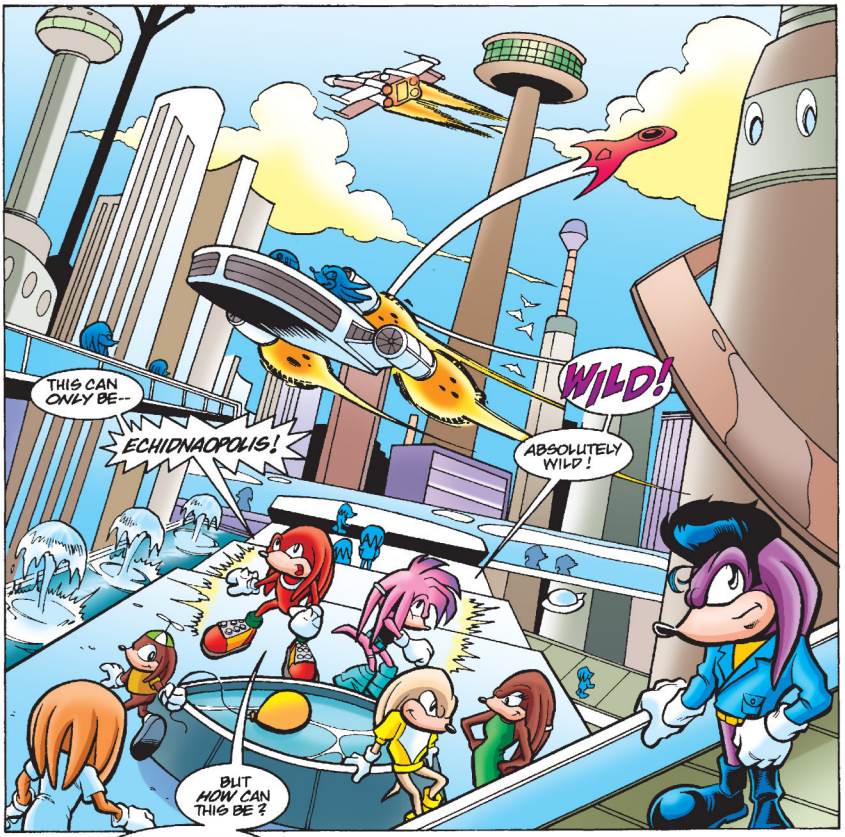

ALL OUR CAREFUL PLANNING--UP IN SMOKE--JUST LIKE THAT!
MAYBE NOT! ARCHIMEDES IS THERE! LET'S SEE HOW IT PLAYS OUT!
WAITAMINUTE!
WHERE'D IT GO?!

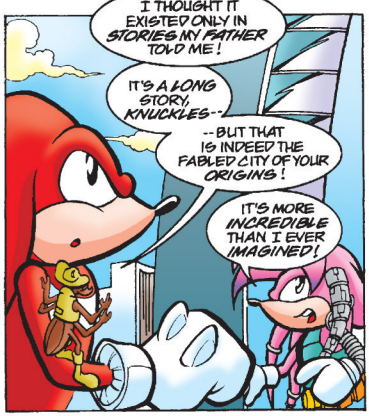

MY EYES MUST BE GOING BONKERS! IT'S BACK AGAIN!
JULIE-SU, SO HELP ME, IF THIS IS SOME DARK LEGION TRICK--
WHY DON'T YOU BLAME ME FOR EVERYTHING ELSE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

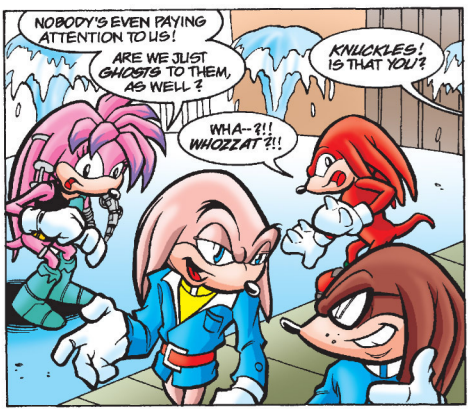

WE CAN BICKER LATER, CHILDREN!
WE WON'T FIND OUT ANYTHING BY STAYING PUT--
--SO LET'S GO!

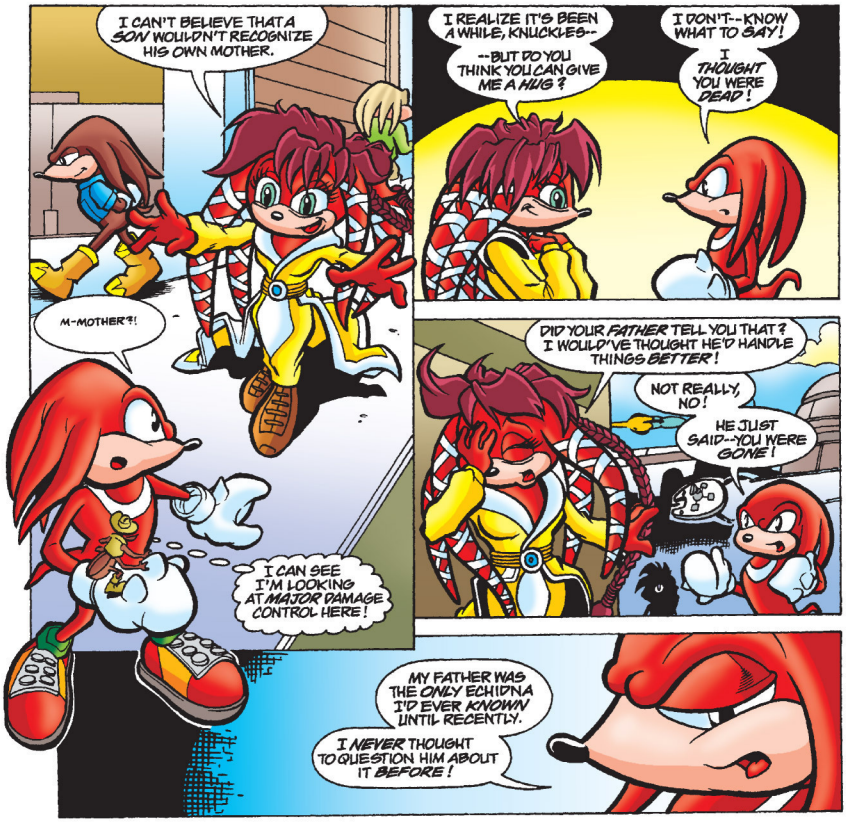


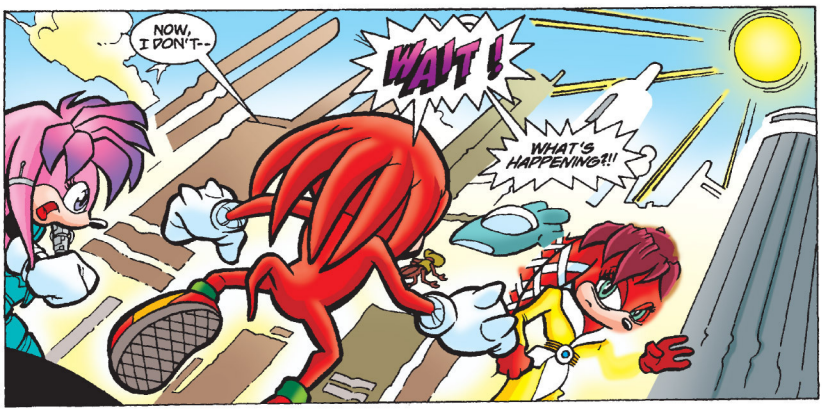

I JUST HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, OLD FRIEND!

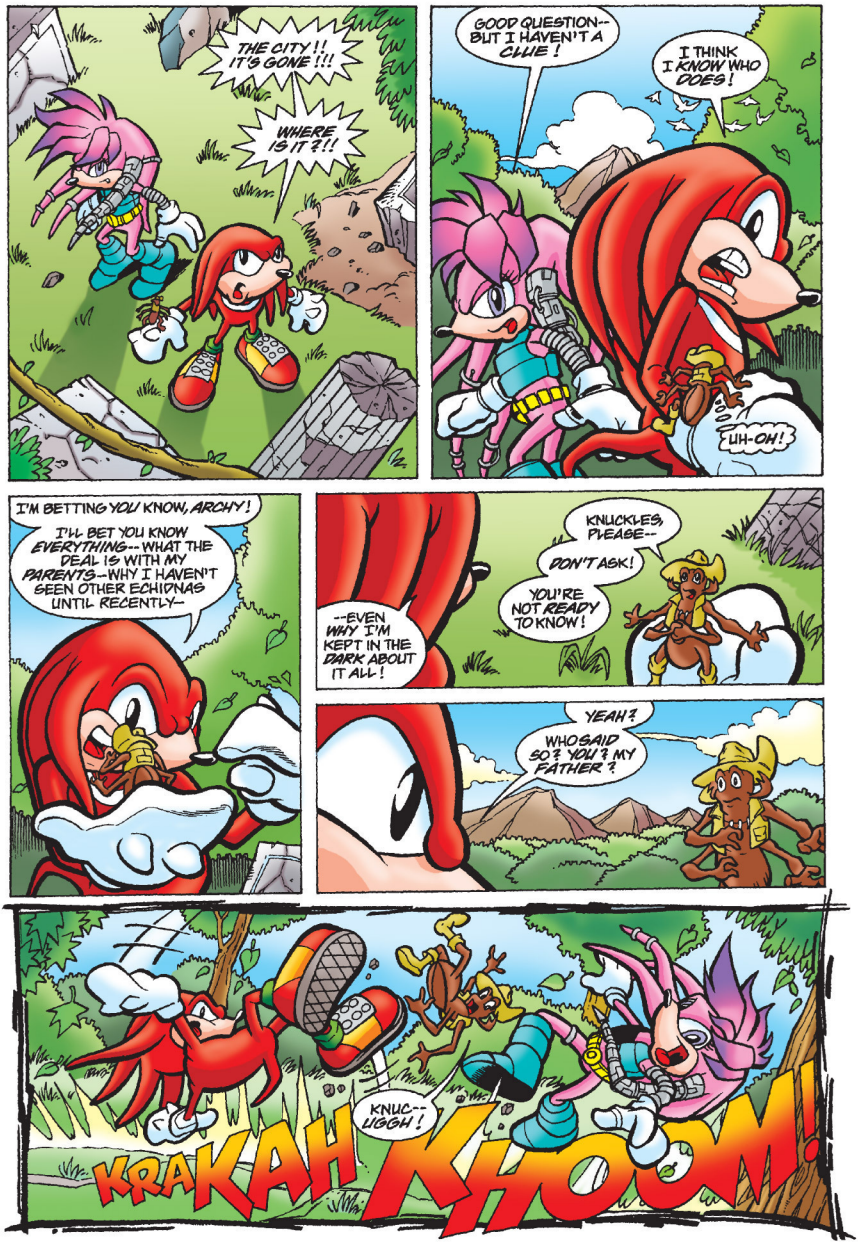

THIS CAN ONLY BE--
ECHIDNAOPOLIS!
WILD!
ABSOLUTELY WILD!
BUT HOW CAN THIS BE?

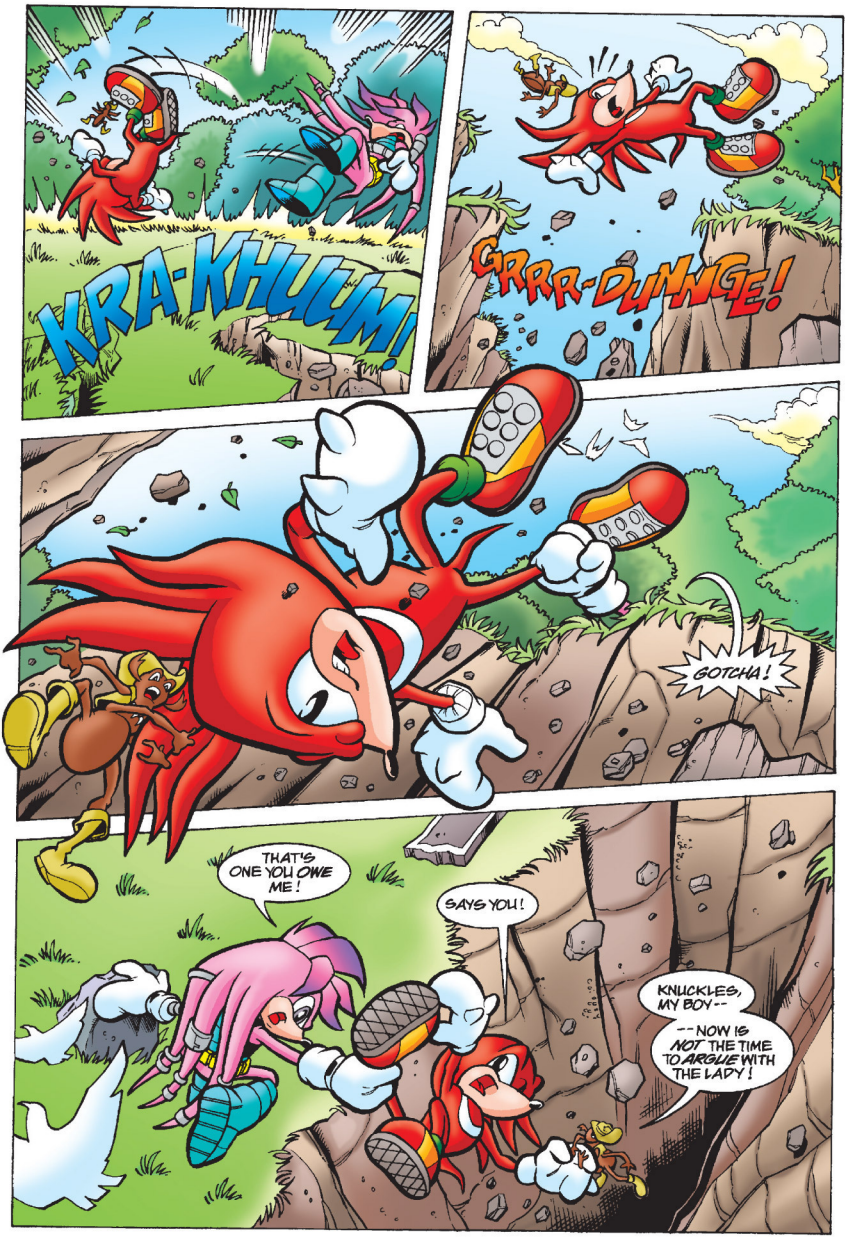

I THOUGHT IT EXISTED ONLY IN STORIES MY FATHER TOLD ME!
IT'S A LONG STORY, KNUCKLES--
--BUT THAT IS INDEED THE FABLED CITY OF YOUR ORIGINS!
IT'S MORE INCREDIBLE THAN I EVER IMAGINED!

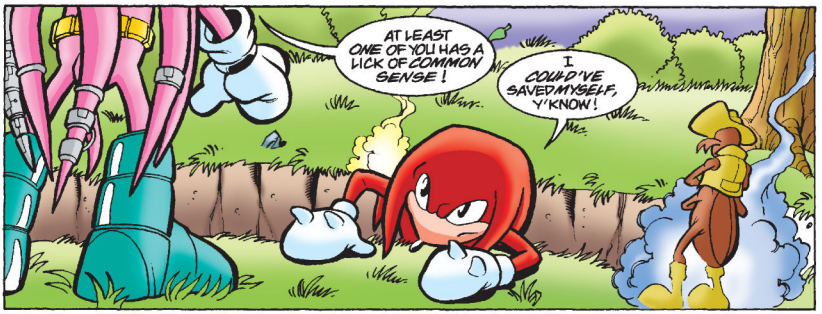

NOBODY'S EVEN PAYING ATTENTION TO US!
ARE WE JUST GHOSTS TO THEM, AS WELL?
KNUCKLES! IS THAT YOU?
WHA--?!! WHOZZAT?!!

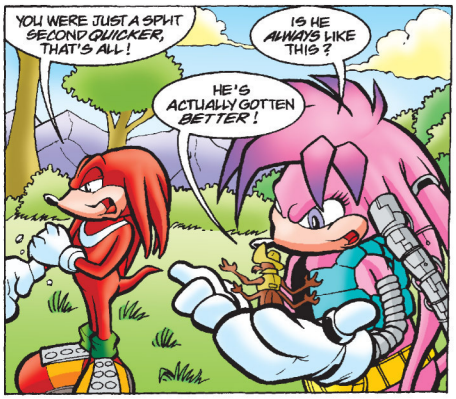

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A SON WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE HIS OWN MOTHER.
M-MOTHER?!
I CAN SEE I'M LOOKING AT MAJOR DAMAGE CONTROL HERE!
I REALIZE IT'S BEEN A WHILE, KNUCKLES--
--BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GIVE ME A HUG?
I DON'T--KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
DID YOUR FATHER TELL YOU THAT? I WOULD'VE THOUGHT HE'D HANDLE THINGS BETTER!
NOT REALLY, NO!
HE JUST SAID--YOU WERE GONE!
MY FATHER WAS THE ONLY ECHIDNA I'D EVER KNOWN UNTIL RECENTLY.
I NEVER THOUGHT TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT IT BEFORE!

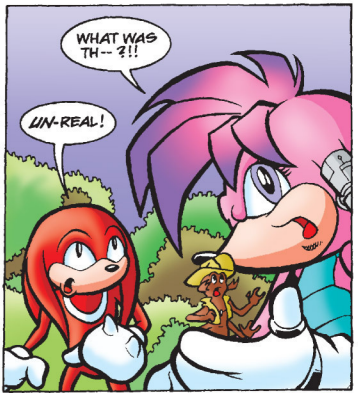

NOW, I DON'T--
WAIT!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!!

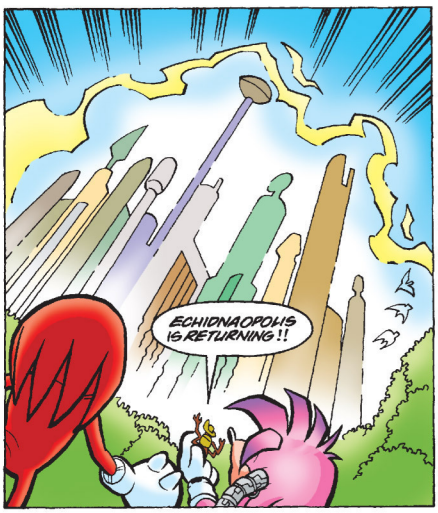

THE CITY!! IT'S GONE!!!
WHERE IS IT?!!
GOOD QUESTION-- BUT I HAVEN'T A CLUE!
I THINK I KNOW WHO DOES!
UH-OH!
I'M BETTING YOU KNOW, ARCHY!
I'LL BET YOU KNOW EVERYTHING-- WHAT THE DEAL IS WITH MY PARENTS--WHY I HAVEN'T SEEN OTHER ECHIDNAS UNTIL RECENTLY--
--EVEN WHY I'M KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT IT ALL!
KNUCKLES, PLEASE--
DON'T ASK!
YOU'RE NOT READY TO KNOW!
YEAH?
WHO SAID SO? YOU? MY FATHER?
KNUC--UGGH!
KRAKAH
KHOOM!


KRA-KHUUM!
GRRR-DUNNGE!
GOTCHA!
THAT'S ONE YOU OWE ME!
SAYS YOU!
KNUCKLES, MY BOY--
--NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO ARGUE WITH THE LADY!

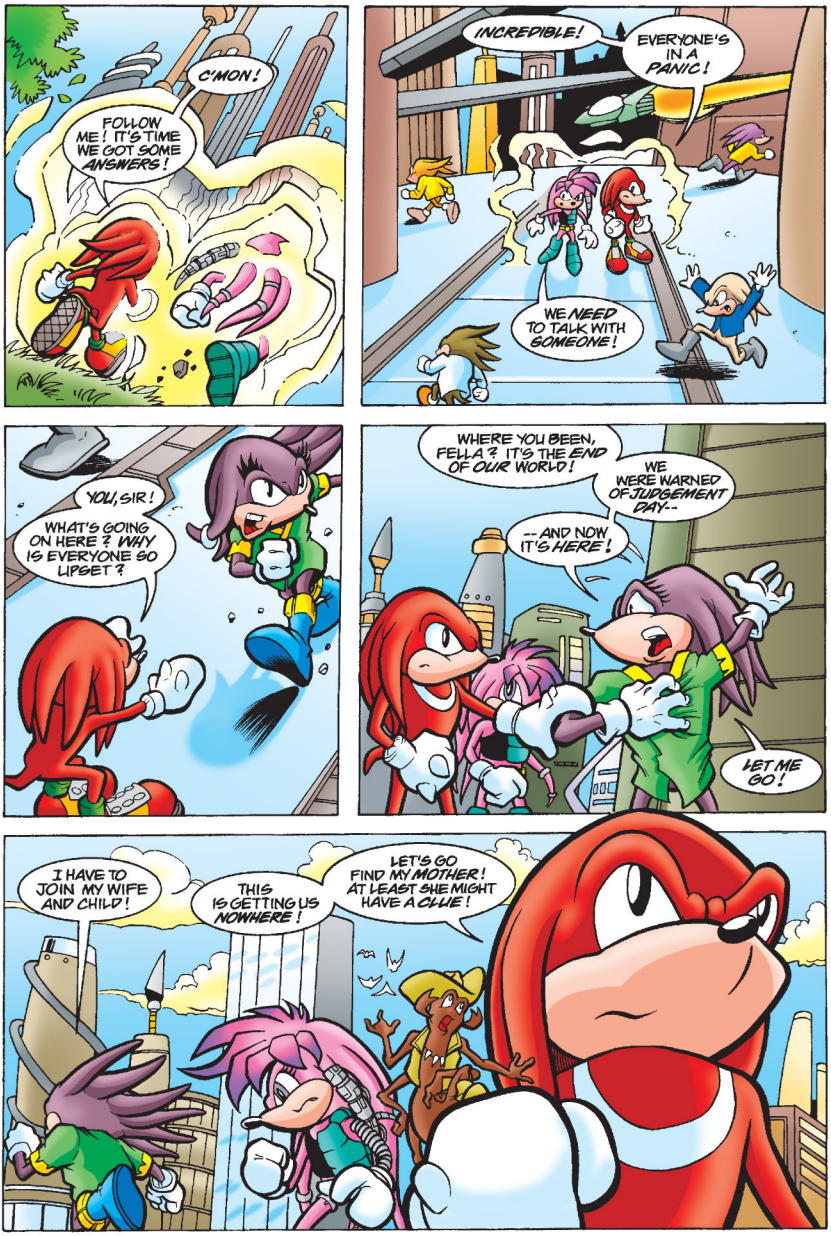

AT LEAST ONE OF YOU HAS A LICK OF COMMON SENSE!
I COULD'VE SAVED MYSELF, Y'KNOW!

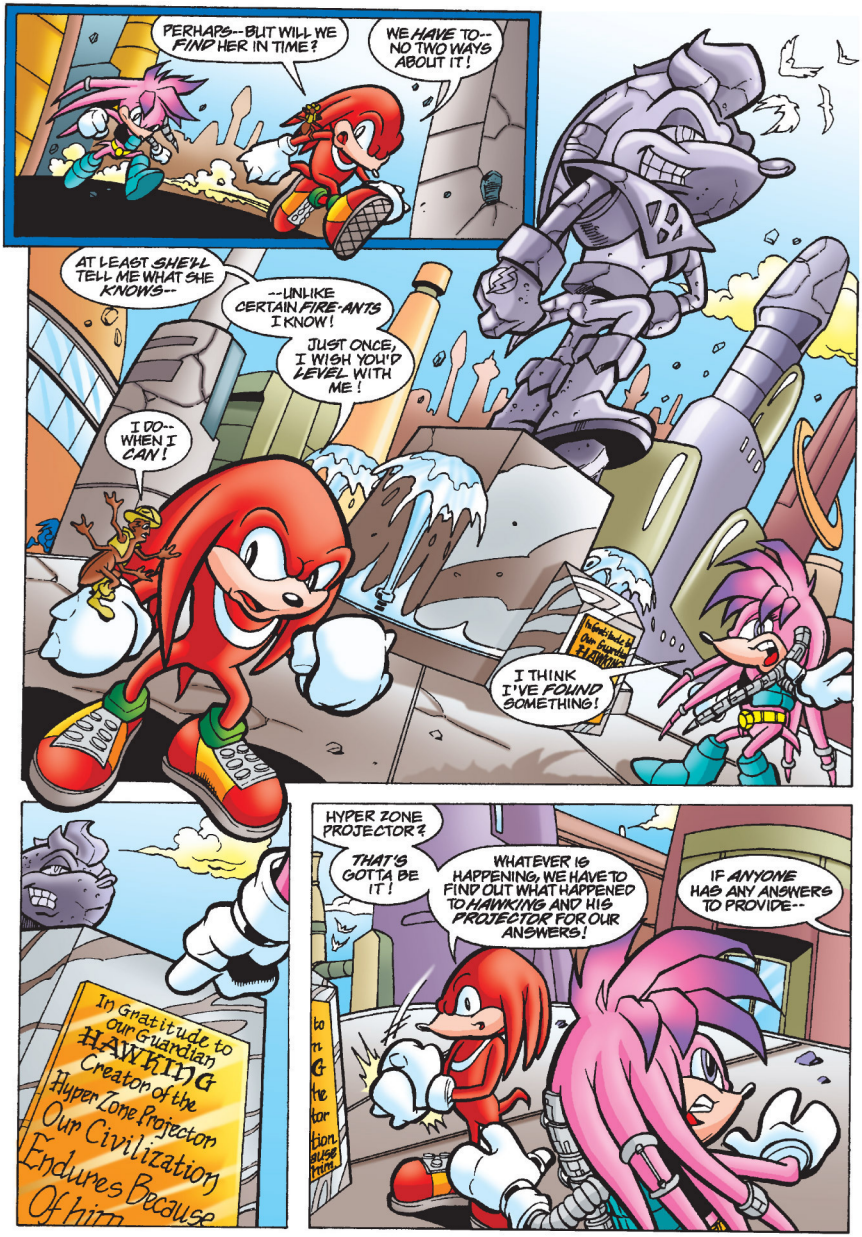

YOU WERE JUST A SPLIT SECOND QUICKER, THAT'S ALL!
IS HE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
HE'S ACTUALLY GOTTEN BETTER!


WHAT WAS TH--?!!
UN-REAL!


ECHIDNAOPOLIS IS RETURNING!!

KRA-KHHUM!
SHOCK WAVE!


C'MON!
FOLLOW ME! IT'S TIME WE GOT SOME ANSWERS!
INCREDIBLE!
EVERYONE'S IN A PANIC!
WE NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE!
YOU, SIR!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY IS EVERYONE SO UPSET?
WHERE YOU BEEN, FELLA? IT'S THE END OF OUR WORLD!
WE WERE WARNED OF JUDGEMENT DAY--
-- AND NOW IT'S HERE!
LET ME GO!
I HAVE TO JOIN MY WIFE AND CHILD!
THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE!
LET'S GO FIND MY MOTHER! AT LEAST SHE MIGHT HAVE A CLUE!


PERHAPS--BUT WILL WE FIND HER IN TIME?
WE HAVE TO--NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT!
AT LEAST SHE'LL TELL ME WHAT SHE KNOWS--
--UNLIKE CERTAIN FIRE-ANTS I KNOW!
JUST ONCE, I WISH YOU'D LEVEL WITH ME!
I DO--WHEN I CAN!
I THINK I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!
In Gratitude to our Guardian HAWKING Creator of the Hyper Zone Projector Our Civilization Endures Because Of him
HYPER ZONE PROJECTOR?
THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!
WHATEVER IS HAPPENING, WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HAWKING AND HIS PROJECTOR FOR OUR ANSWERS!
IF ANYONE HAS ANY ANSWERS TO PROVIDE--

--YOU THREE HAD BETTER COME UP WITH SOME PRETTY QUICK!
TO BE CONTINUED...
(AS IF YOU COULDN'T GUESS!)